

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**Commercial Filming, Television Production, Sound Track Application**

Guidance for filming in National Wildlife Refuges is found in 43 CFR 5.1, and summarized below.

No picture may be filmed, and no television production or sound track made on any area administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by any person other than amateur or bona fide newsreel and new television photographers and soundmen unless written permission has been obtained. This may be done by completing a Special Use Permit application.

**Fees; bonds**

There is a \$100.00 administrative fee for processing the permit, but no fees are charged for making motion pictures, television productions, or sound tracks.

A bond shall be furnished, or deposit made by cash or by certified check, in an amount to be set by official in charge of the area to insure full compliance with all conditions of the permit. You will be advised of the necessity or amount of the bond following review of you application.

**Please include the following information under question #3 of the Special Use Permit Application.** You may answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper and attach to you permit request:

1) Permission is requested to make a (Description of audio-visual, including title of production if applicable):

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(2) The scope of the filming (or production or recording) and the manner and extent thereof will be as follows:

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(3) Weather conditions permitting, work will commence on approximately\_\_\_\_\_ and will be completed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Extension of the permit may only be made by the refuge manager in writing.)

(4) Area of use: Submit a map or describe location of activities. Note: *If the area of use is designated wilderness, please see guidelines following permit questions. If you don't know, please contact the refuge office for clarification.*

(5) How many people are involved in the activity? What are their names, addresses and role?

(6) Method of transportation to the Refuge.

(7) Will anyone be staying on refuge lands over night and if so, what type of housing facilities will be used? (If you are camping on the refuge during your operation, please describe your safety plan, including equipment available, and names and contact information for people you will be checking in with you while you are in the field.)

(8) Will fuel caches be needed?

Be as detailed in your description of the activity as possible, so a determination can be made by this office on what type of activity you are proposing to do, the extent of the activity and persons involved, what equipment the activity will require, and how the activity will affect the natural resources managed by this office.

**Additional documents required for selected lands:**

If the proposed use of the refuge will occur on Native selected lands, the applicant is required to obtain a signed statement from the appropriate Native Corporation(s) documenting their views, before the Special Use Permit can be issued. On State selected lands, permission must be obtained for any activities that involve construction of permanent facilities, or the removal of minerals or materials. If you do not know whether your use area will include selected lands, please contact the refuge at least six weeks in advance of the time you plan to begin your activity so the appropriate contacts can be made.

**If the area in which the proposed activity will occur is designated wilderness:**

The Wilderness Act of 1964 generally prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, mechanical transport, and installation of permanent structures in designated wilderness unless the proposed action is necessary for the administration of the area to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act provides exceptions in Alaskan wilderness, allowing access by snowmachines, motorboats, and airplanes for traditional activities. Applicants requesting use of other types of motor vehicles (e.g. helicopters, all terrain vehicles) or motorized equipment in designated wilderness will be required to submit information sufficient for the Refuge Manager to make a determination about whether the proposed use is:

- Necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act, and
- The minimum action or instrument necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish wilderness management objectives

### **Applicant Information/Requirements:**

The following special conditions will be included in your finalized permit along with any other conditions necessary to protect refuge resources.

(i) Utmost care will be exercised to see that no natural, historic, or cultural features are injured, and after completion of the work the area will, as required by the refuge manager, either be cleaned up and restored to its prior condition or left, after clean-up, in a condition satisfactory to the refuge manager.

(ii) Credit will be given to the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge through the use of an appropriate title or announcement, unless there is a written statement that no such courtesy credit is desired.

(iii) Pictures will be taken of wildlife only when such wildlife will be shown in its natural state or under approved management conditions if such wildlife is confined.

(iv) Any special instructions received from the refuge manager will be complied with.

(v) Any additional information relating to the privilege applied for by this application will be furnished upon request of the refuge manager.

**(Film Company)** agrees to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with usable footage of species and habitats filmed, in Beta SP format. This footage can be in the form of out-takes not used in its copyrighted production. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall have the right to use this footage for environmental education, outreach, media, and any purposes relating to agency mission. The Service will credit **(Film Company)** whenever this footage is used or provided. This agreement does not prohibit **(Film Company)** from using the same footage now or in the future, provided such use does not restrict the rights of the Service.